

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 SAM-01 ACDA-07 /090 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:WHLUERS/ARA/EP:FBCORRY:MBB

APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN

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R 192327Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PE, CU

SUBJECT: SOVIET-PERUVIAN RELATIONS

1. ON JULY 14 PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR GARCIA BEDOYA CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS TO THANK HIM FOR DEBUNKING PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS MADE BY SENATOR HELMS THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF CUBAN ADVISORS WERE PRESENT IN PERU. HE SAID THAT PERUVIAN PRESS HAD FAVORABLY REPORTED LUERS' CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. LUERS THANKED THE AMBASSADOR AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE TESTIMONY HELPED CLARIFY SOME QUESTIONS REGARDING PERU. LUERS DISCUSSED OUR SUPPORT FOR DIVERSITY IN THE HEMISPHERE AND OUR POSTURE OF NOT MAKING JUDGMENTS ON HOW GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZE THEMSELVES DOMESTICALLY. IN THAT CONTEXT LUERS POINTED OUT THAT HIS TESTIMONY HAD NOTED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT PERUVIAN ARMS PURCHASES FROM THE SOVIETS. SPEAKING FRANKLY, LUERS

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STATED THAT HE MUST EXPRESS CONCERN THAT INCREASED PUR-

CHASES FROM THE SOVIETS AND CLOSE MILITARY TIES WITH THEM
COULD NOT ONLY UNDERMINE PERUVIAN FREEDOM OF ACTION BUT
HEIGHTEN CONCERNS IN THE AREA.

3. GARCIA BEDOYA REPLIED THAT THE PERUVIANS BECAME
INVOLVED WITH THE SOVIETS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BECAUSE
OF THE FAILURE OF THE U.S. TO BE RESPONSIVE TO PERUVIAN
NEEDS. THE MEETING CLOSED ON A CORDIAL NOTE. KISSINGER

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